

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 PA-04

USIA-15 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

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P 080908Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2603

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

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USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 7-8-74

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, LA

SUBJ: PROPOSED ADB LOAN AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

VIENTIANE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (LAOS)

REF: A) STATE 53151 B) MANILA 3170

SUMMARY: ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSES US\$6 MILLION
EQUIVALENT LOAN FROM SPECIAL FUNDS RESOURCES TO
KINGDOM OF LAOS TO FINANCE FOREX COST OF EXPANSION
AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION
FACILITIES IN THE VIENTIANE AREA, AND A TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE GRANT NOT TO EXCEED US\$103,000 EQUIVALENT
FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES IN TARIFF, FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT.
PROJECT IS FIRST PHASE OF THREE -STAGE PHASED

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EXPANSION TO MEET VIENTIANE'S PROJECTED WATER DEMAND

UP TO YEAR 2000. USADB RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE NAC ACTION.

1. ADB DOC R-32-74 WITH ATTECHMENTS DESCRIBING PROPOSED
LOAN AND GRANT POUCHED ADDRESSEES APRIL 2. BOARD
CONSIDERATION SCHEDULED APRIL 16.

2.ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSING \$6 MILLION LOAN FROM SPECIAL
FUNDS RESOURCES AND UP TO \$103,000 GRANT TO
GOVT OF KINGDOM OF LAOS. PROCEEDS WILL FINANCE FOREX COST OF
CONSTRUCTIN NEW INTAKE FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED
PUMPING AND WATER TREATMENT PLANTS HAVEING A CAPA-
CITY OF 40,000 CUBIC METERS/DAY; FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL OF
EXISTING INTAKE FACILITIES; PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION
MAINS, SERVICE RESERVOIRS, WATER METERS, FIRE
HYDRANTS, LEAKAGE CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND CONSULTING SERVICES.
PROPOSED TERMS ARE 40 YEARS AMORTIZATION INCLUDING 10 YEAR
GRACE PERIOD, 1 PERCENT INTEREST. KINGDOM OF LAOS TO
BE BORROWER, NAM PAPA LAO (NPL--WATER AUTHORITY
OF LAOS), EXECUTING AGENCY. FUNDS ARE TO BE RELENT
TO NPL UNDER SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

3. PROJECT WHEN COMPLETED WILL ADD 40,000 CU.M./DAY TO
THE EXISTING WATER SUPPLY CAPACITY SO THAT BY 1978 ABOUT
67 PERCENT OF VIENTIANE'S POPULATION, ESTIMATED TO
BE 225,000 BY THEN, WILL BE SERVED. THIS
WILL BE DONE BY CONSTRUCTING: A) A RIVER
INTAKE AND PUMPING STATION OF 120,000 CU.M./DAY
CAPACITY AT CHINAIMO AND AN ASSOCIATED RAW
WATER PUMPING AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT OF 40,000 CU.M./DAYP
CAPACITY; B) A TREATED WATER PUMPING PLANT OF 40,000
CU.M./DAY CAPACITY AND A BOOSTER STATION OF 23,000 CU.M./DAY
CAPACITY; C) ABOUT 75 KILOM-METERS OF DUCTILE IRON AND STEEL TREAT-
ED WATER TRANSMISSION MAINS AND ASBEST CEMENT DISTRIBUTION AND
RETICULATION MAINS; D) FOUR SERVICE RESERVOIRS WITH TOTAL CAPACITY
11,200 CU.M.; E) FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL WORKS AT EXISTING
FACILITIES AT KAOLIE; F) PROCUREMENT OF 8000 WATER METERS,
100 FIRE HYDRANTS AND LEAKAGE CONTROL EQUIPMENT;
G) PROVISION OF CONSULTING SERVICES TO EVIEW PRELIMINARY DESIGNS,
PREPARE DETAILED DESIGNS, TENDER DOCS AND SPECS,
ASSIST IN PREQUALIFYING CIVIL WORKS CONTRACTORS AND
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EVALUATION OF BIDS. COMMENDING AWARDS, SUPERVISING
CONSTRUCTION, TRAINING NPL PERSONNEL
IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AND REVIEWING EXISTING DRAINAGE
STUDIES TO FORMULATE PROPOSALS TO PROTECT THE NEW INTAKE FACILITIES
FROM POLLUTION. PROPOSED PPROJECT WILL EXPAND
AND SUPPLEMENT THE EXISTING UNSATISFACTORY WATER SYSTEM OF
VIENTIANE WHICH NOW SERVICES ONLY 46 PERCENT
OF THE EXISTING 192,000 POPULATION, SOME WITH ONLY INTERM-

ITTENT SERVICES DUE TO OVERLOADING AND DEFICIENCIES IN BOTH
SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.

4. THE EXISTING SYSTEM INSTALLED 10 YEARS AGO, UNDER
A COMBINED GRANT AND LOAN FROM JAPAN, IS IN POOR
CONDITION NEEDING URGENT REPAIR, OVERHAUL AND REPLACEMENT
SPARES, AND CURRENTLY HAS AVERAGE DAILY OUTPUT OF ONLY
11,000 CU.M./DAY SERVING 85,000 CUSTOMERS FROM A DESIGNED
CAPACITY OF 14,000 CU. M. COLLATERAL JAPANESE GRANT AID
IS NOW UNDERWAY TO REHABILITATE THE EXISTING
SYSTEM, AND
WHEN SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION APRIL 1974 IS EXPECTED TO
RESTORE PLANT TO FULL DESIGN CAPACITY.

5. THE PRESENT SERVICE AREA OF NAM PAPA LAO (NPL) IS
ABOUT 3300 HECTARES COVERING VIENTIANE AND
ENVIRONS, AN AREA WHICH HAS BEEN HAVING AN AVERAGE ANNUAL
POPULATION INCREASE PAST 7 YEARS OF 4.6 PERCENT, AND AN AVERAGE
ANNUAL INCREASE IN WATER DEMAND DURING
SAME PERIOD OF 15 PERCENT. CURRENT DEMAND CALCULATED AT MORE
THAN 1.3 TIMES AVAILABLE CURRENT SUPPLY OF 11,000 CU.M./DAY.
POPULATION PROJECTIONS INDICATE WATER DEMAND WILL BE
22,000 CU.M./DAY IN 1978 AND 47,000 CU.M./
DAY IN 1985 CURRENT SUPPLY SHORTFALLS BEING MET BY SHALLOW WELLS,
WATER VENDORS OR USE RAW RIVER WATER, ALL
POLLUTED AND A SOURCE OF DISEASE AND PARASITE INFESTATION.
ALSO, WELLS DRY UP DURING DRY SEASON.

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CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

DRC-01 /176 W

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P 080908Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2604
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

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6. CONSULTANTS PROVIDED UNDER PREVIOUS BANK-FCNANCED TA, RECOMMENDED REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING PLANT MOST ECONOMIC AND FEASIBLE SOLUTION WATER NEEDS VIENTIANE. DEEP WELLS FOUND TO BE EXPENSIVE TO OPERATE, EASILY POLLUTED, AND LOW YIELDING, RULING OUT GROUND WATER AS APPROPRIATE SOURCE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY. NEAREST ALTERNATIVE TO MEKONG AS SURFACE WATER SOURCE IS NAM NGUM RIVER NORTH OF VIENTIANE WHICH RULED OUT FOR LACK SUITABLE DAM SITE WITHIN 40 KILOMETERS OF CITY. MEKONG RIVER QUALITY VARIES SEASONALLY, DURING NOV/MAY DRY SEASON WATER IS CLEAR WITH NEAUTRAL PH VALUE. DURING RAINY SEASON (JUNE/OCT) WATER IS TURBID AND ACIDITY INCREASES, BUT RESPONDS READILY TO CHEMICAL TREATMENT (ALUM AND HYDRATED LIME).

7. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED ONE ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT LEAVES A BAD TASTE IN ONE'S MOUTH. THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE NEW INTAKE STRUCTURE AND TREATMENT PLANT AT CHINAIMO, SOUTH OF THE MAIN SUPPLY AREA IS DOWNST-
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REAM OF TWO MAJOR SEWAGE AND STORM DRAIN OUTFALLS OF THE CITY, AT INPENG AND KHOUKHAO. BANK STAFF ASSURED THAT A) HIGH DILUTION OCCURS (40,000 CU. METERS WILL BE TAKEN FROM A DAILY FLOW OF 60,000,000 METERS) AND B) CONSULTANT TESTS OF WATER QUALITY AND PURITY WERE NO DIFFERENT WHETHER TAKEN UPSTREAMS OR DOWNSTREAM OF THE SEWAGE AND STORM DRAINS. NONETHELESS, TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PROJECT CONSULTANT INCLUDE FORMULATION OF APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL ACTION LEADING TO IMPROVEMENT OF SURFACE DRAINAGE AND RELOCATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE OUTFALL TO MAKE THAT LUANG, EAST OF VIENTIANE, TO REPLACE THE KHOUKHAO OUTLET. VARIOUS WHO STUDIES HAVE SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM, SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AND ANTI-POLLUTION ENFORCEMENT. GOVT ASSURES (SIDE LTR NO. 4, PARA 12) THAT REMEDIAL DRAINAGE ACTION TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BANK, WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO INSURE THE PREVENTION OF SEWAGE OUTFALL UPSTREAM BEYOND THE DATE WHEN PROPOSED NEW INTAKE FACILITIES BECOME OPERATIONAL.

8. BEGIN FYI: EXISTING JAPANESE BUILT PLANT ONLY 10 YEARS OLD, APPEARS PLAGUED WITH PROBLEMS, WITH ALL BULK RECORDING METERS INOPERATIVE SINCE 1966 FLOOD; 60 PERCENT OF 6700 CUSTOMER WATER METERS DEFECTIVE; INTAKE AND DISTRIBUTION PUMPS, CHEMICAL FEEDING EQUIPMENT OFTEN DEADLINED. OTHER DIFFICULTIES, INCLUDING DEEP SCOURING (EROSION) OF HEADWORKS MAIN INTAKE TOWER AT KAOLIEO, FILTER BEDS SUBJECT TO RECURRENT FLOODING; LOCATION OF MAIN PLANT AT EXTREME WEST OF SERVICE AREA; SERIOUS ENCRUSTATION OF UNLINED CAST IRON TRANSMISSION MAINS AND GALVANIZED STEEL DISTRIBUTION MAINS, CAUSING LOW PRESSURE AND INTERMITTENT SUPPLY, SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS POOR DESIGN JUDGEMENTS SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO NAM PAPA LAO'S MANPOWER AND BUDGET SHORTFALLS, CHRONIC LACK OF SPARES, POOR MAINTENANCE. USADB CONCERNED THAT BANK NOT BE SANDBAGGED INTO REHAB AND REBUILD OF INFERIOR JAPANESE PLANT. HOWEVER, BANK STAFF ASSURES THAT APART FROM SOME PROJECT REMEDIAL WORK ON EXISTING INTAKE TOWER, ONE INTER-CONNECTING MAIN, AND REPLACEMENT OF CUSTOMER METERS, JAPANESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSUMING MAJOR REHAB BURDEN ON BILATERAL GRANT BASIS RESTORIT 3XISTIN G SYSTEM TO DESIGN CAPACITY UNTIL BANK-FINANCED PLANT COMES ON LINE. END FYI. GOVT HAS ASSURED IT WILL ACQUIRE NECESSARY LAND FOR ACCESS ROADS , HEADWORKS, TREATMENT WORKS, RESERVOIRS, AND PIPELINE EASEMENTS.

9. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT ESTIMATED AT \$7.35 MILLION OF WHICH FOREX COMPONENT IS \$6 MILLION TO BE FINANCED FROM PROPOSED LOAN. LOAN PROCEEDS WOULD FINANCE FOREX COMPONENT OF CIVIL WORKS (\$3.398); PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (\$1.387) ENGINEERING SERVICES (\$.544) (ABOVE FIGURES MILLIONS). COST ESTIMATES ALLOW FOR SCALATION CURRENT PRICES UP TILL CONTRACT AWARDS PLUS 13 PERCENT CONTINGENCY; CONSULTANT SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER PROPOSED GRANT OF \$103,000.

10. PROCUREMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORD BANK'S GUIDELINES FOR PROCUREMENT AND OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTS FINANCED BY SPECIAL FUNDS WILL BE AS DETERMINED BY BANK. PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES WILL BE BY NPL, WITH INTERNATIONAL BIDS FOR EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS ON BASIS OF TENDER DOCS PREPARED BY CONSULTANTS. CIVIL WORKS OF \$150,000 OR MORE TO BE AWARDED TO PRE-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS ON BASIS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING. CIVIL WORKS OF LESS THAN \$150,000 TO BE AWARDED CONTRACTORS WITHOUT PRE-QUALIFICATION ON BASIS INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING (SIDE LTR NO. 2, PARA 8). SUPPLY CONTRACTS FOR EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

\$75,000 OR MORE ON BASIS INT'L COMPETITIVE BIDDING; UNDER \$75,000
(EXCEPT MINOR ITEMS) ON BASIS INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING.

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CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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II. NPL WILL BE EXECUTING AGENCY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTA-
TION, HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY CARRIED OUT ANY MAJOR EXPANSION
OF WATER WORKS. CURRENT FINCNIAL CONDITION OF NPL IS
CHARACTERIZED BY EXTREMELY TIGHT LIQUIDITY POSITION,
DEFICIT CASHFLOW, AND HIGH DEBT TO EQUITY RATIO. VERY
UNSATISFACTORY FINANCIAL CONDITION REQUIRES IMMEDIATE
INSTITUTION OF MUCH NEEDED FINANCIAL REFORMS AND CONTROL
MEASURES IF NPL IS TO SURVIVE NEXT 5 YEARS

WHICH BAN

PROJECTION INDICATES TO BE FINANCIALLY VERY DIFFICULT.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CONSULTANTS INCLUDE TRAINING TO UP-

GRADE STAFF WITH LIMITED ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE, WHOSE

PREVIOUS RESPONSIBILITY LIMITED TO ACCEPTING TURN-KEY

PROJECTS. NPL MUST ALSO FILL KEY VACANCIES AT HIGHER

LEVELS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO DEFICIENCIES IN OPERATIONS.

ALTHOUGH NPL'S BASIC ACCOUNTING, FINANCE, BILLING AND

COLLECTION OPERATIONS CONSIDERED GENERALLY SATISFACTORY,

VALUATION OF ASSETS/INVENTORIES, COST CONTROLS, COORDINA-

ATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS NEED IMPROVEMENT; SUBSTANTIAL
PAST DUE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE REQUIRE REDUCTION. PROPOSED
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2-3 CONSULTANTS WOULD ADDRESS IN 14 MAN/MONTHS, FINANCE,
MANAGEMENT AND TARIFF ISSUES, INCLUDING FORMULATION AND
RECOMMENDATION NEW TARIFF STRUCTURES AND CONNECTION
CHARGES. USADB NOTES THAT NPL, IN ADDITION TO MANAGEMENT
VIENTIANE WATER SYSTEM, ALSO OPERATES SYSTEMS 2 OTHER
CITIES, LUANG PRABANG AND PAKSE, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE
RECENTLY-INSTALLED SYSTEMS WITH LOW REVENUE AS YET.
SUBSTANTIAL OPERATING LOSSES SINCE COMMISSIONING OF THESE
TWO ADDITIONAL SYSTEMS SEEN AS HEAVY BURDEN ON NPL. STAFF
INDICATES CURRENT INEQUITABLE FLAT RATES TO ALL CONSUMER
CATEGORIES IRRESPECTIVE QUANTITY CONSUMED; FLAT HIGH
CONNECTION CHARGES NOT ADJUSTED FOR LOCATION OR DEMAND,
WILL BE CONSIDERED IN CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATIONS EXPECTED
TO BOTH INCREASE REVENUE, ESTABLISH MORE EQUITABLE
CONNECTION CHARGES AND TARIFF SCHEDULES. NPL ALSO HAS
INCURRED HEAVY DEBT BURDEN FOR CONSTRUCTION COSTS 3
SYSTEMS OWED TO JAPAN, (VIENTIANE), GERMANY (LUANG
PRABANG) AND FRANCE (PAKSA): SOME LOANS AT MEDIUM TERM
WITH NON-CONCESSIONAL INTEREST RATES (15 YEARS, 6 PERCENT;
5 YEARS, 7 PERCENT). BANK STAFF ASSURES THAT CONSULTANT
RECOMMENDATIONS, NPL'S ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCING PLAN
WHICH INCLUDES BETTER INTERNAL CASH GENERATION; A "DE-
FREEZING" OF A 682 MILLION GRANT FROM THE JAPANESE
CONTRIBUTION TO F.E.O.F.; AND A CONCESSIONAL LOAN OF
E452 MILLION FROM NATIONAL BANK OF LAOS, WILL TOGETHER
WITH BANK'S \$6 MILLION LOAN EVENTUALLY MEET ALL COSTS
INCLUDING CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, OPERATING AND ADMINIS-
TRATIVE EXPENSES, LOAN AMORTIZATION AND WORKING CAPITAL
NEEDS. GOVT HAS ASSURED PROPOSED TARIFF INCREASE
(ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 20 PERCENT) SCHEDULED IN 1979 WILL BE
ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN FUTURE FINANCIAL VIABILITY NPL. IT
SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BULK OF NPL'S OVERDUE RECEIVABLES
ARE FROM OTHER GOVT AGENCIES, INCLUDING POWER COMPANY
EDL TO WHOM NPL IS ALSO DELINQUENT. GOVT HAS ASSURED
ALL OVERDUE GOVT ACCOUNTS WILL BE SETTLED ON BASIS
ACCEPTABLE TO BANK. NPL'S CURRENT HIGH DEBT SERVICE
RATIO (ABOVE 2) DUE TO HEAVY BORROWINGS AND SMALL EQUITY
BASE WILL IMPROVE WITH REHAB AND EXPENSION OF THE VIEN-
TIANE WATER SYSTEM. RATE OF RETURN ON NET FIXED ASSETS
SATISFACTORY. NOTE: LOCAL FINANCING DATA PROVIDED IN
REF B WERE INCORRECT.

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12. BANK CONSIDERS PROPOSED PROJECT TO BE TECHNICALLY SOUND AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE. GOVT HAS ASSIGNED PROJECT HIGH PRIORITY. FINANCIAL RATE OF RETURN ESTIMATED AT 12 PERCENT BASED ON INCREASED TARIFF, AN AMOUNT CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE GIVEN THE SMALL SIZE OF SYSTEM, HIGH DISPERSAL OF POPULATION IN PROJECT AREA, INCLUSION COSTS OF REHAB ON HEADWORKS, MAINS AND METERS, ULTIMATE DESIGN CAPACITY OF NEW INTAKE OF 120,000 CU.M./DAY. FINANCIAL IRR UNDER-STATES ECONOMIC RETURN ON PROJECT SINCE PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS, BETTER FIRE PROTECTION NOT REFLECTED IN PRICE CHARGED FOR WATER. REDUCTION IN ENDEMIC WATER-BORNE INFECTIONS, SKIN AILMENTS, MONETARY SAVINGS WILL RESULT FROM EVIDENCE HIGH EXPENDITURES NOW REQUIRED FOR PUMPS, ROOF TANKS AND VENDORS. CURENT MORATORIUM ON NEW CONNECTIONS SEVERELY RETARDS POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. USADB SUPPORTS PROPOSAL AND INTENDS TO EMPHASIZE IN BOARD DISCUSSION IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL VIABILITY NPL'S OPERATIONS; VITAL CONTRIBUTION CONSULTANTS WILL MAKE TO SUCCESS OF PROJECT. FAVORABLE NAC ACTION IS RECOMMENDED.

13. REQUEST VIENTIANE'S COMMENTS FOR NAC AGENCIES, INFO USADB MANILA, PURSUANT TO STATE 119795 DTD 3 JULY 1972.

SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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